

Remarks

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Applicants elect Examiner's Group I (claims 1-4 and 6), drawn to a plant having a drought tolerance phenotype.

The Examiner has required a restriction between product and process claims. The Applicants have elected claims to a specific product. In accordance with M.P.E.P. § 821.04, if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined. Applicants expressly request that the method claims be rejoined and the claims examined, at the latest upon the allowance of any of the product claims. It is believed that this is in accordance with the current Patent and Trademark Office Guidelines for Restriction Requirements in TC1600.

Conclusion

It is believed that the application is in condition for substantive examination. If any minor matters remain to be addressed prior to examination, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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